

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 2402

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: UNGA, FI
SUBJECT: SECVISIT: 33RD UNGA: RECOMMENDATION FOR BILATERAL WITH
FINNISH FOREIGN MINISTER

REF: (A) STATE 184758, (B) USUN 2801, (C) HELSINKI 1713,
(D) HELSINKI 2356

1. FINNISH FOREIGNMINISTER PAAVO VAYRYNEN WILL HEAD THE
FINNISH DELEGATION AT THE 33RD UNGA. AS REPORTED BY USUN
NEW YORK (REFTEL B), VAYRYNEN WILL BE IN NEW YORK FROM
SEPTEMBER 25 THROUGH 29 AND HAS REQUESTED A BILATERAL
MEETING WITH SECRETARY VANCE.

2. WE RECOMMEND THAT THE SECRETARY MEET WITH VAYRYNEN IF
HIS SCHEDULE PERMITS. HIGH LEVEL CONTACTS BETWEEN US AND
FINNISH OFFICIALS SERVE IMPORTANT US INTERESTS IN FINLAND:
THEY OFFER OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPLAIN DIRECTLY AND OFFICIALLY
US VIEWPOINTS TO FINNISH REPRESENTATIVES WHO HAVE FREQUENT
HIGH LEVEL EXCHANGES WITH THE SOVIET UNION; AND THEY
DEMONSTRATE US INTEREST IN AND SUPPORT FOR CONTINUED
FINNISH INDEPENDENCE AND NEUTRALITY. THE SECRETARY AND
FOREIGN MINISTER VAYRYNEN HAVE NOT MET FORMALLY DURING
1978. THEY MET TWICE IN 1977; AT THE OECD MINISTERIAL
IN JUNE AND AT THE 32ND UNGA IN SEPTEMBER.

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3. WE WOULD EXPECT VAYRYNEN GENERALLY TO BE INTERESTED
IN AN OVERALL REVIEW OF INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS WITH
THE SECRETARY WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON US/SOVIET
RELATIONS. WITH RESPECT TO SPECIFIC QUESTIONS,
VAYRYNEN MAY WISH TO URGE US SUPPORT FOR FINLAND'S CANDI-
DACY FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT, DE-
PENDING UPON WHERE THAT MATTER STANDS WHEN THE UNGA

CONVENES.

4. WE ARE FOLLOWING CLOSELY TWO OTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN WHICH FINLAND IS VERY MUCH INVOLVED. ONE IS FINLAND'S LATEST PROPOSAL FOR A NORDIC NUCLEAR WEAPONS FREE ZONE WHICH PRESIDENT KKKONEN ANNOUNCED IN MAY AND WHICH FOREIGN MINISTER VAYRYNEN SUPPORTED IN HIS SPEECH AT THE SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT. THE SECOND MATTER CONCERNS RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN SOVIET/FINNISH MILITARY RELATIONS. AT THIS STAGE, IT IS TOO EARLY TO RECOMMEND WHETHER THE SECRETARY SHOULD RAISE EITHER OF THESE ISSUES OR TO ANTICIPATE WHETHER THE FOREIGN MINISTER MAY RAISE THE FORMER. IF THE SECRETARY IS ABLE TO MEET WITH VAYRYNEN, WE WILL OF COURSE PROVIDE THE DEPARTMENT WITH UPDATED INFORMATION CONCERNING THESE POSSIBLE TOPICS.

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